



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029



SDMS DocID

2056833

# Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site Interview Summary Confidential Source #1



LOWER DARBY CREEK AREA  
WORK ASSIGNMENT NO. ES002

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Name:

(b) (6)

Affiliation:

(b) (6)

Telephone:

(b) (6)

Type of Interview:

In Person

Date of Interview:

January 30, 2001

On January 30, 2001, the WITNESS was interviewed by (b) (4) of Tri-Sate Enterprise. This interview was conducted at the Cusano Environmental Education Center located on the John Heinz Refuge at Tinicum. The WITNESS was interviewed as part of the potentially responsible party search currently being conducted under work Assignment NO. ES002 involving the Lower Darby Creek Area site, Delaware County, PA (Site). This interview focused on the Folcroft Landfill (FL) and the Folcroft Landfill annex (FLA). The WITNESS was provided with a letter of introduction, advised of the nature of the questions to be asked and advised that the interview was voluntary. The WITNESS was not represented by an attorney in this matter and did not wish to have an attorney. No other persons were present and this interview was not tape-recorded.

During the course of this interview the WITNESS responded to questions based on guidelines provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for private citizens.

The WITNESS was asked to explain how she became associated with the FL and FLA.

The WITNESS stated that she has lived in Folcroft, PA for more than fifty years and played in the area as a child. The WITNESS stated that in the late 1960s she became involved with a group of area residents that were concerned about the operation of the FL and FLA and the negative impact this operation had on the marsh. The WITNESS stated that this citizens group was known as the Concerned Area Residents for the Preservation of the Tinicum Marsh. She indicated that this group was known as CARP. The WITNESS stated that she was active in this group until about 1980.

The WITNESS was asked if she had ever been on the FL or FLA. The WITNESS stated that she had not been on the property but had observed the property from a distance. She indicated that in the early 1980s she had observed hospital waste, bandages and needles and paint cans on the property.

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She did not know where this waste came from or how it was transported to the FL, FLA.

When asked to describe the FL, the WITNESS stated that the FLA was filled first. She indicated that the FLA is adjacent to the industrial Drive and was filled with waste in tiers to build over the wet land and expand the property to the FL. She further explained that a parcel would be dredged to about 45 feet and waste was filled in. She indicated that this would build up the tier. She indicated that once a tier was built the next parcel would be dredged and filled. This continued until the FLA reached the area that is now the FL. The WITNESS stated that FLA opened in about 1961 and the FL closed on April 1, 1976.

When asked if the FLA or the FL was fenced, the WITNESS stated that she did not think there was a fence. She indicated that there was a wooden shack at the entrance of the FLA that was used to log in trucks by the FL operator. The WITNESS stated that this shack was referred to as the control point of the FLA and FL by the owner of the FLA and FL, Wilber Henderson. She indicated that Henderson made this reference to the shack at the Folcroft Borough meetings that were held during the early 1970s.

The WITNESS stated that John McNickle was a partner with Wilber Henderson in the operation of FLA and FL.

The WITNESS stated that Ben Sinclair was an attorney who lived in Folcroft, PA and represented CARP on a volunteer basis. She indicated that Sinclair would have records of most of the Folcroft Borough meetings. She indicated that Sinclair lives in the State College, PA area.

When asked if she knows the names of the companies that disposed of waste at FLA and FL, the WITNESS stated she did not know specific names. She indicated that she had observed trucks enter the FL on numerous occasions but does not know the names of the companies that these trucks were from. She indicated that the local trash collector that transported waste to the FL was Tri-County Hauling. She believed that Tri-County Hauling was owned and operated by Wilber Henderson.

The WITNESS further stated that the Delaware County incinerator supplied fly ash to the FLA that was used as fill to help build the tiers.

When asked the names of any individuals that may have knowledge of the names of the companies that disposed of waste at the FL, the WITNESS stated that two families lived on Lower Ashland Avenue at the entrance to the FLA and would have knowledge of the names of the waste haulers that entered the Landfill. She provided the following names.

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- Joel and Bernie Phillips, Bernice Phillips children.
- George Kilmartin and his children.
- Bernice Phillips

The WITNESS stated that the Phillips and Kilmartins still live in the Folcroft area and agreed to provide me with their address and telephone numbers. She indicated that Bernice Phillips had told her that she, Bernice Phillips, had observed nighttime dumping on the FL and had observed 55-gallon steel drums on the FL on numerous occasions.

The WITNESS further stated that the following individuals may also have relevant knowledge regarding the names of transporters and generators that disposed of waste at FLA and FL.

- Jack Falcone: The WITNESS stated that Falcone was the Folcroft Borough Landfill Inspector in the late 1960s and had visited the FL and FLA on numerous occasions. She indicated that Falcone may have been tolerant of illegal disposal activities.
- Charles "Bucky" Frank: The WITNESS stated that Frank was associated with Wilber Henderson and worked on the FLA and FL. She indicated that Frank may have been the bulldozer operator for a time at the FLA. The WITNESS stated that Frank lives in Folcroft.
- William and Rhoda Gribell: The WITNESS stated that the Gribells were very active in the Folcroft Community in the late 1960s and early 1970s and that Rhoda had founded the CARP Group. The WITNESS indicated that both William and Rhoda had visited the FLA and FL on numerous occasions. She indicated that the Gribbels now live in Maine.
- James Travers: The WITNESS stated that Travers was the Folcroft Mayor in the early 1970s and was active in the FLA operation as a concerned public official. She further stated that Travers lives with his daughter in Folcroft.
- Carl Schwartz: The WITNESS stated that Schwartz is currently in the Fish and Wildlife Service in up State New York. She indicated that Schwartz was a Penn State Cooperative student in the mid 1970s and worked with the Fish and Wildlife Service at Tincum. She indicated that Schwartz had observed illegal dumping after the FL was closed.
- Elaine Shane: The WITNESS stated that Shane worked for the Folcroft Borough and was knowledgeable of the FL operation.

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The witness stated that the members of CARP were involved with the Folcroft Borough Planning commission and were knowledgeable of some of the permitted dumping. She indicated that the records from the Planning commission meeting would, if the original still in existence, be located in the archives at the Folcroft borough hall.

"I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date (b) (6)

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